

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-24 and 26-35 are currently being canceled. Please note that these claims are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in order to obtain a quick allowance of this application, whereby Applicants preserve the right to prosecute these claims in continuation or divisional applications, if so desired.

Claims 25 and 36 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 25 and 36 are now pending in this application.

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 25 and 36 contain allowable subject matter.

In the Office Action, claims 25 and 36 were objected to because of minor informalities noted on page 2 of the Office Action. Claims 25 and 36 have been amended based on the helpful suggestions made in the Office Action (without affecting the scope of these claims), whereby it is submitted that presently pending claims 25 and 36 are unobjectionable.

In the Office Action, claims 25 and 36 were rejected 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. Claims 25 and 36 have been amended based on the helpful suggestions made in the Office Action (without affecting the scope of these claims), whereby it is submitted that presently pending claims 25 and 36 are fully compliant with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In the Office Action, claims 1-7 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,484,028 to Okada et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,706,428 to Boer et al. Due to the cancellation of claims 1-7 and 35, this rejection is now moot.

Since there are no other objections or rejections raised in the Office Action, Applicants believe that the present application is now in, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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